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Biographies of
Thomas B. Walker
and
Harriet G. Walker
of
Minneapolis, Minn.

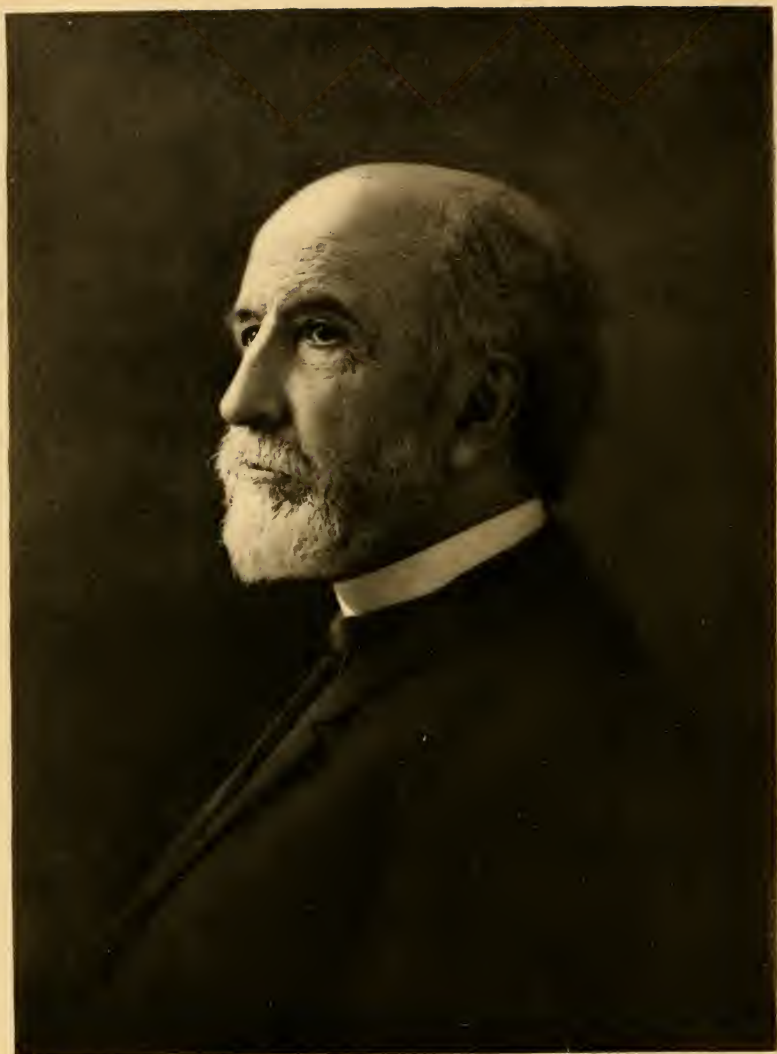


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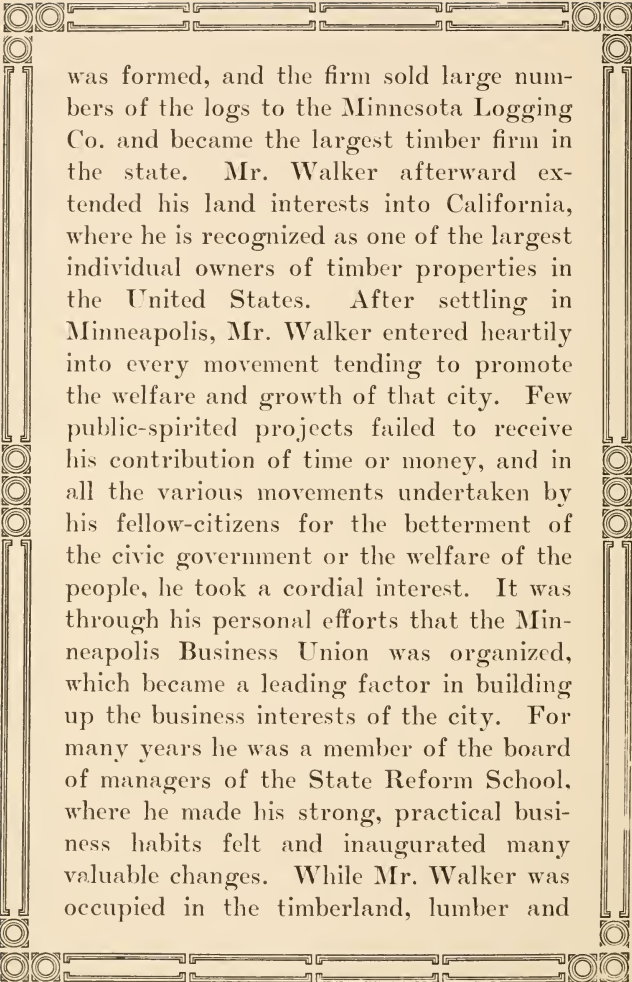
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THOMAS BARLOW WALKER, publicist, business man, lumberman and scholar, was born at Xenia, O., Feb. 1, 1840, son of Platt Bayliss and Anstis (Barlow) Walker. The Walkers were of English stock, who settled during the early history of the country in New Jersey, his father leaving that state early in life for New York. His maternal grandfather was Thomas Barlow, of New York, and two of his uncles were for many years judges, Thomas Barlow in New York and Moses Barlow in Ohio. His father died en route to California in 1849, and his mother was left to struggle with adversity with her four young children. At the age of sixteen, young Walker's family removed to Berea, O., where better educational advantages were possible, and from sixteen to nineteen his time was divided between

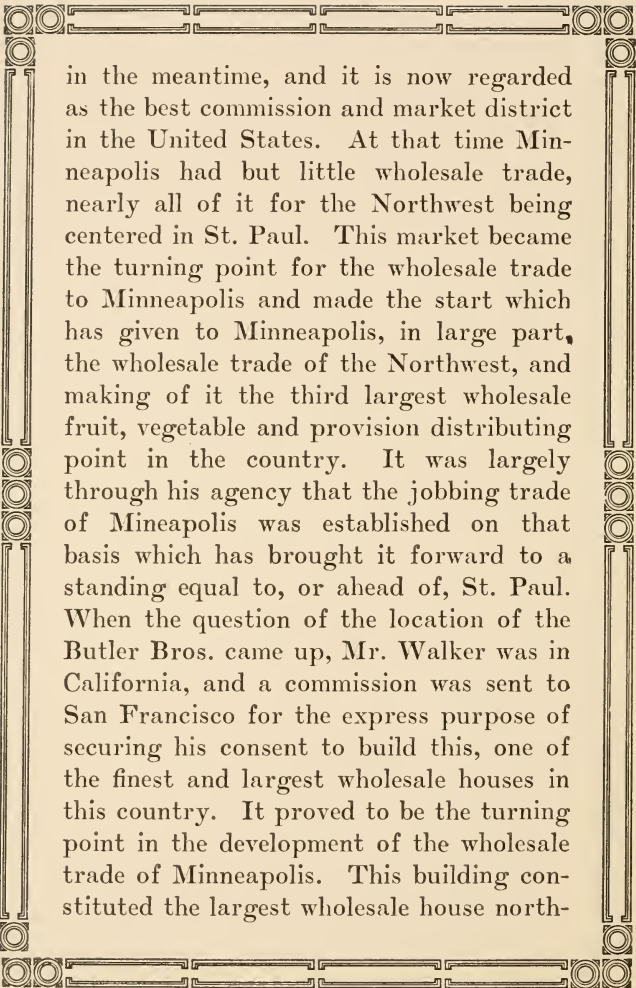
work and study. After various business adventures, always attended with hard work and generally with success, he returned to his books and studies, and the next winter taught a district school in the adjoining township. At the age of nineteen he became a traveling salesman and traveled throughout the middle West to sell his goods. He was so much impressed with the business possibilities of the western country that he determined to make his home there, and in 1862 settled in Minneapolis, Minn. Soon after his arrival in Minneapolis he joined a government surveying party and began work as U. S. surveyor, in which occupation he was engaged for a portion of each year for a number of years, surveying a considerable portion of the northern and western part of the state of Minnesota. While so engaged he became acquainted with the white pine regions of the state, which he afterward began to purchase as a temporary occupation, in connection with other parties, and soon after began the manufacture of lumber. He began making purchases of timber lands in a modest way, and formed

a partnership with Levi Butler and Howard Mills, under the firm name of Butler, Mills & Walker, of which he was the manager. This firm was afterward changed to Butler & Walker on account of the ill-health of Mr. Mills. On the burning of their mills a new partnership under the new form of L. Butler & Co. was organized, the new members being O. C. Merri- man, James W. Lane and Leon Lane. This firm constructed one of the largest sawmills on the east side of the Missis- sippi river and did a large manufacturing business for several years. In 1877 Mr. Walker and Maj. George A. Camp formed the well-known firm of Camp & Walker, and the Pacific mill, long operated by Joseph Dean & Co., was purchased. He began in 1880 to locate large quantities of pine land on the headwaters of Red Lake and Clearwater rivers, and to utilize the timber there he organized, with his eldest son, Gilbert M. Walker, the Red River Lumber Co., constructing mills at Crookston, Minn., and Grand Forks, N. Dak., on the Red river. In 1887 a part- nership with H. C. Akeley, of Minneapolis,

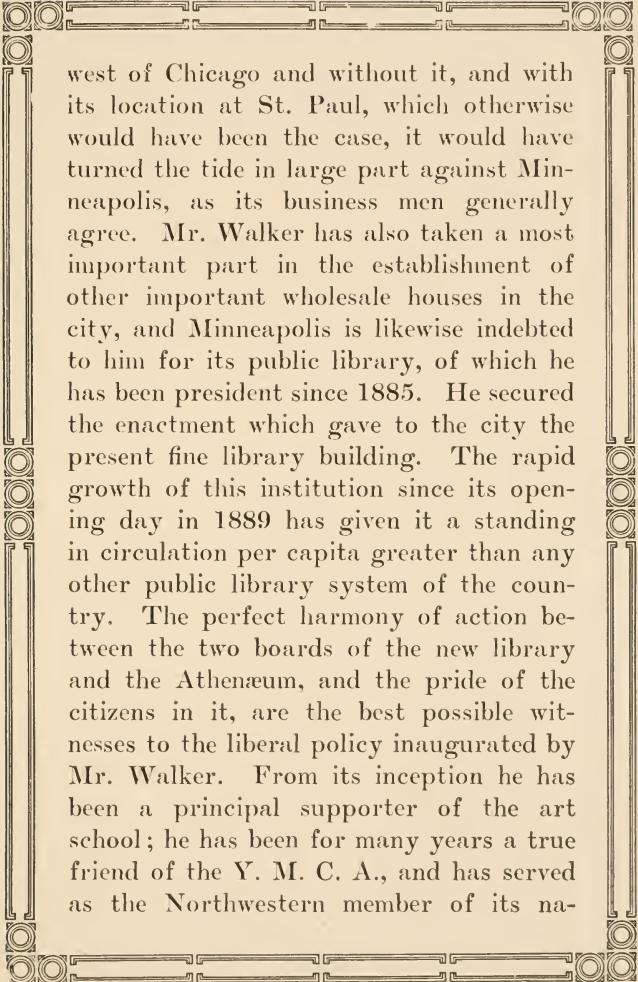
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was formed, and the firm sold large numbers of the logs to the Minnesota Logging Co. and became the largest timber firm in the state. Mr. Walker afterward extended his land interests into California, where he is recognized as one of the largest individual owners of timber properties in the United States. After settling in Minneapolis, Mr. Walker entered heartily into every movement tending to promote the welfare and growth of that city. Few public-spirited projects failed to receive his contribution of time or money, and in all the various movements undertaken by his fellow-citizens for the betterment of the civic government or the welfare of the people, he took a cordial interest. It was through his personal efforts that the Minneapolis Business Union was organized, which became a leading factor in building up the business interests of the city. For many years he was a member of the board of managers of the State Reform School, where he made his strong, practical business habits felt and inaugurated many valuable changes. While Mr. Walker was occupied in the timberland, lumber and

manufacturing business largely outside the city of Minneapolis, he always exhibited a keen interest in the welfare of Minneapolis and an ambition to see it placed foremost among the cities of the nation. The city council, and particularly its market committee, worked for twenty years or more to find some one who would build a city market. Mr. Harlow Gale, who had for a number of years been running a small establishment called a city market, fronting Bridge square, was compelled to abandon it on account of its interference with trade and travel, because of the market teams standing in the street. Mr. Walker and Maj. Camp offered the present market site to Mr. Gale for a location. He sought for several years to find some one to furnish means to build a city market, and as such could not be found then, especially and particularly for the building up of the jobbing trade of Minneapolis, the market enterprise and commission-house business was entered into by Mr. Walker and Maj. Camp. On the latter's death Mr. Walker proceeded to rebuild the market, which had burned

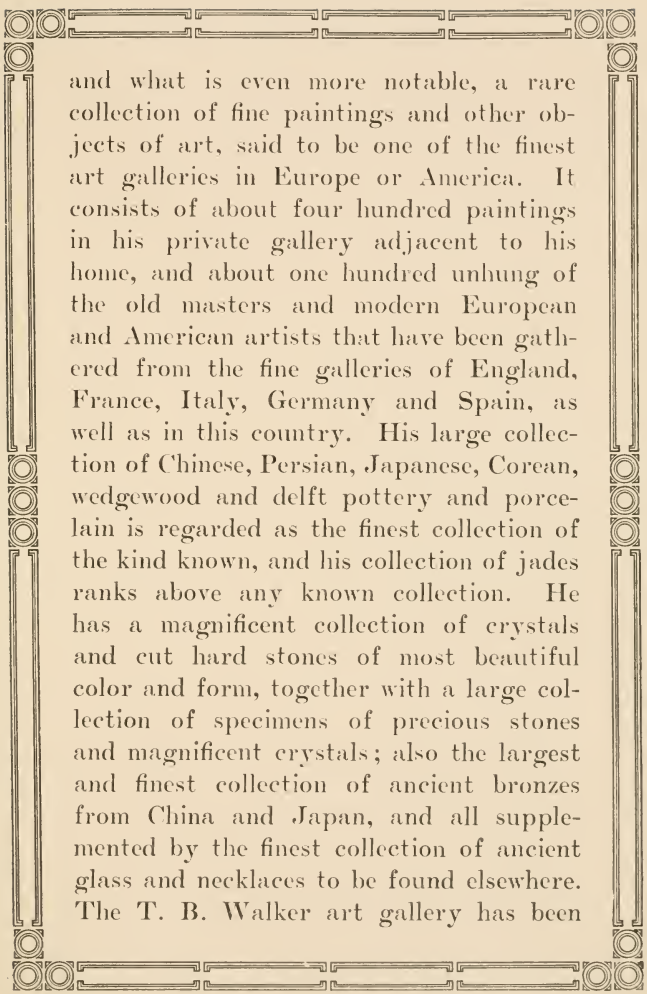
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in the meantime, and it is now regarded as the best commission and market district in the United States. At that time Minneapolis had but little wholesale trade, nearly all of it for the Northwest being centered in St. Paul. This market became the turning point for the wholesale trade to Minneapolis and made the start which has given to Minneapolis, in large part, the wholesale trade of the Northwest, and making of it the third largest wholesale fruit, vegetable and provision distributing point in the country. It was largely through his agency that the jobbing trade of Minneapolis was established on that basis which has brought it forward to a standing equal to, or ahead of, St. Paul. When the question of the location of the Butler Bros. came up, Mr. Walker was in California, and a commission was sent to San Francisco for the express purpose of securing his consent to build this, one of the finest and largest wholesale houses in this country. It proved to be the turning point in the development of the wholesale trade of Minneapolis. This building constituted the largest wholesale house north-

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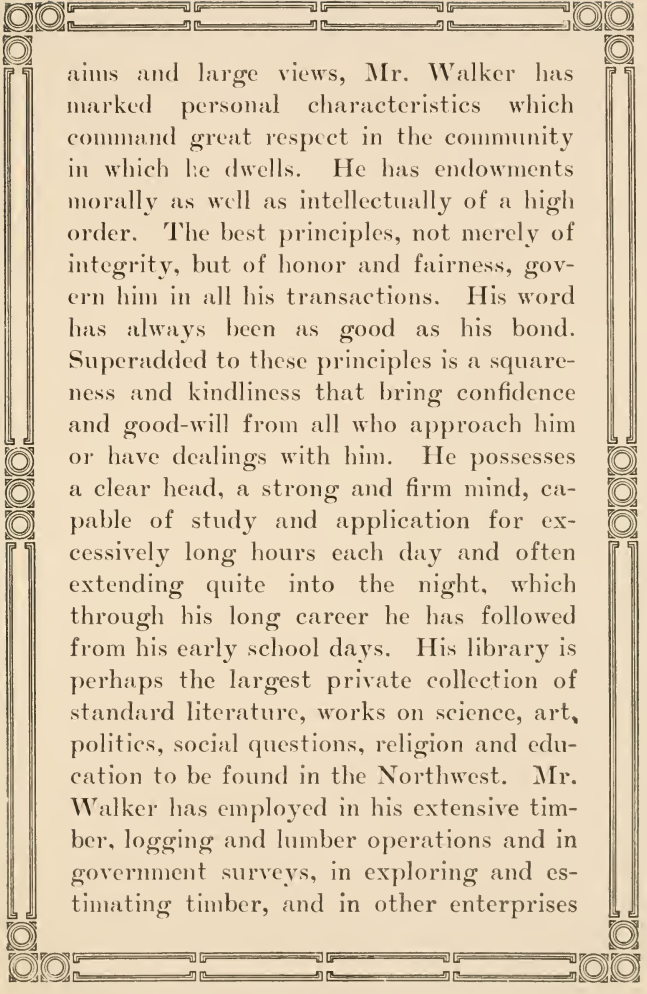
west of Chicago and without it, and with its location at St. Paul, which otherwise would have been the case, it would have turned the tide in large part against Minneapolis, as its business men generally agree. Mr. Walker has also taken a most important part in the establishment of other important wholesale houses in the city, and Minneapolis is likewise indebted to him for its public library, of which he has been president since 1885. He secured the enactment which gave to the city the present fine library building. The rapid growth of this institution since its opening day in 1889 has given it a standing in circulation per capita greater than any other public library system of the country. The perfect harmony of action between the two boards of the new library and the Athenæum, and the pride of the citizens in it, are the best possible witnesses to the liberal policy inaugurated by Mr. Walker. From its inception he has been a principal supporter of the art school; he has been for many years a true friend of the Y. M. C. A., and has served as the Northwestern member of its na-

tional committee. He has been for many years presiding officer in the Methodist Social Union and Church Extension Society, which has for its special object the assisting of smaller and less favored churches with means for building or enlarging or repairing churches, or paying off debts, pastor's salaries, or other expenses. Through this agency, and largely through Mr. Walker's contributions, the thirty Methodist churches in Minneapolis are better equipped and freer from debt than those of any other city in America. With all his business cares he has not neglected the finer side of life. He has been a deep and thorough student of all questions of social, industrial and political affairs and despite his manifold business interests he devotes a large part of the day and evening to studying problems of the times, writing articles for publication and preparing addresses to be delivered before the Y. M. C. A., the church and business associations. He has a splendid private library of volumes, covering standard authors in philosophy, science, history, political economy, poetry and art,

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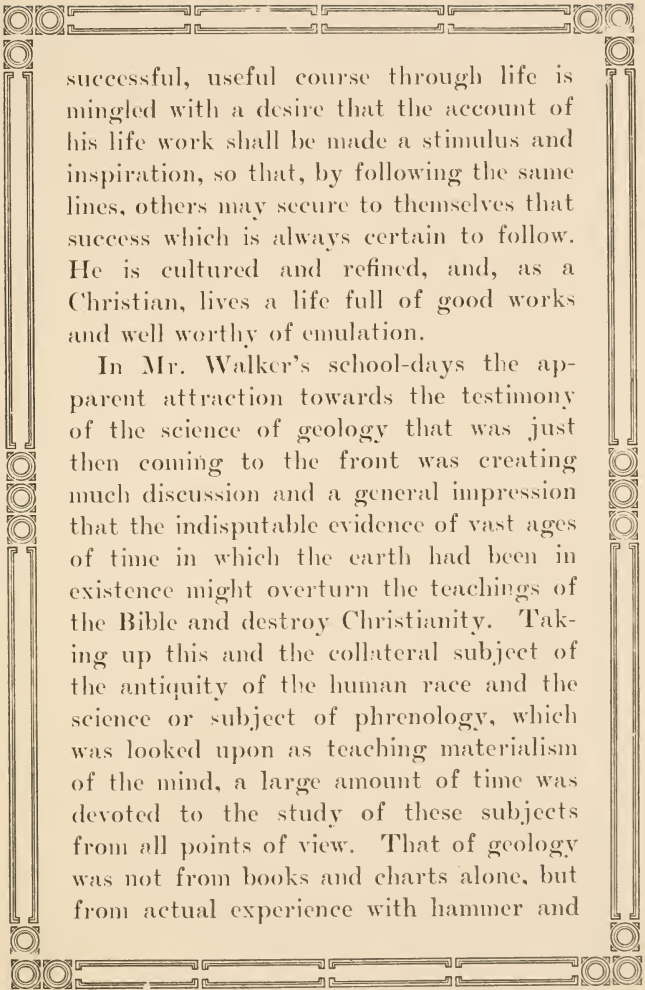
and what is even more notable, a rare collection of fine paintings and other objects of art, said to be one of the finest art galleries in Europe or America. It consists of about four hundred paintings in his private gallery adjacent to his home, and about one hundred unhung of the old masters and modern European and American artists that have been gathered from the fine galleries of England, France, Italy, Germany and Spain, as well as in this country. His large collection of Chinese, Persian, Japanese, Korean, wedgewood and delft pottery and porcelain is regarded as the finest collection of the kind known, and his collection of jades ranks above any known collection. He has a magnificent collection of crystals and cut hard stones of most beautiful color and form, together with a large collection of specimens of precious stones and magnificent crystals; also the largest and finest collection of ancient bronzes from China and Japan, and all supplemented by the finest collection of ancient glass and necklaces to be found elsewhere. The T. B. Walker art gallery has been

pronounced one of the finest and most magnificent large collections of the Art World. It was through Mr. Walker's instrumentality that it was provided that the Minneapolis Public Library should include the old Athenæum Library, and that provisions were made for the art room and for the Academy of Science. He was the prime mover and originator of the public library, in recognition of which he has been annually re-elected president of the board since its organization. He is also a member of many of the prominent national scientific and educational associations. His residence is in the central part of the city, the grounds having a frontage of two hundred and fifty feet on the business street and nearly the same on Eighth street, with rows of benches under the trees that are available to the public. The property has been unfenced for many years, and is, so far as known, the first open lawn in this country. The idea was soon put in practice by others, until it spread quite generally throughout the city of Minneapolis, and from there to other cities of the United States. Of high

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aims and large views, Mr. Walker has marked personal characteristics which command great respect in the community in which he dwells. He has endowments morally as well as intellectually of a high order. The best principles, not merely of integrity, but of honor and fairness, govern him in all his transactions. His word has always been as good as his bond. Superadded to these principles is a squareness and kindliness that bring confidence and good-will from all who approach him or have dealings with him. He possesses a clear head, a strong and firm mind, capable of study and application for excessively long hours each day and often extending quite into the night, which through his long career he has followed from his early school days. His library is perhaps the largest private collection of standard literature, works on science, art, politics, social questions, religion and education to be found in the Northwest. Mr. Walker has employed in his extensive timber, logging and lumber operations and in government surveys, in exploring and estimating timber, and in other enterprises

many thousands of men. There has never been a labor union formed among them, as they have never found any reason for combined efforts to secure satisfactory treatment at satisfactory wages. He has had continually the good-will and friendly attitude of his workmen and superintendents that has given to him their confidence and efficient services, which has enabled him to pay them materially higher wages and give more considerate treatment, that has brought most friendly relations, as well as success in the enterprises. He has never had a known enemy or unfriendly employee among all his workmen. His whole career has been directed by principles of integrity, fairness and liberality. Every question is referred to them without hesitation. This has established confidence and faith in his ability and reliability that has given him capital and the co-operation of others that has enabled him to work out large enterprises that have been the key to his business success. Not merely to record the birth, early history and business accomplishments of Mr. Walker is this article prepared, but his



successful, useful course through life is mingled with a desire that the account of his life work shall be made a stimulus and inspiration, so that, by following the same lines, others may secure to themselves that success which is always certain to follow. He is cultured and refined, and, as a Christian, lives a life full of good works and well worthy of emulation.

In Mr. Walker's school-days the apparent attraction towards the testimony of the science of geology that was just then coming to the front was creating much discussion and a general impression that the indisputable evidence of vast ages of time in which the earth had been in existence might overturn the teachings of the Bible and destroy Christianity. Taking up this and the collateral subject of the antiquity of the human race and the science or subject of phrenology, which was looked upon as teaching materialism of the mind, a large amount of time was devoted to the study of these subjects from all points of view. That of geology was not from books and charts alone, but from actual experience with hammer and

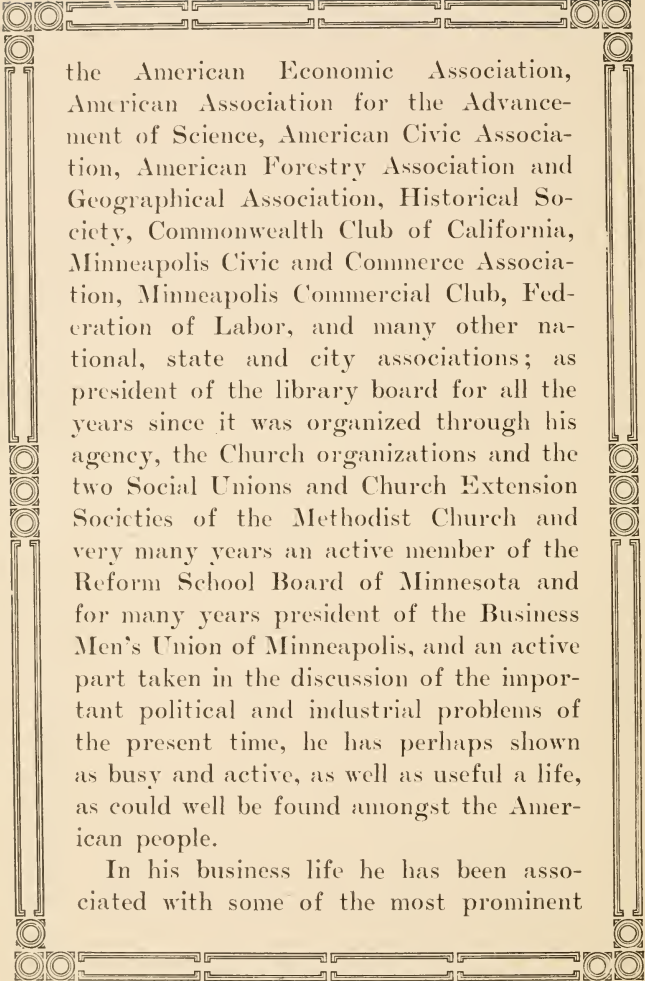
chisel in the stone quarries wherever he could visit them. From these and from careful study of the different textbooks and authorities he was able to see and consider all sides of the questions. The truths of Christianity from the side of Butler's Analogy, Paley's "Natural Theology," Keith's "Exposition of Historical Prophecy," Warburton's "History of Julian's Attempt to rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem," Bishop Watson's reply to Tom Paine, Hugh Miller's "Testimony of the Rocks," Lyell's "Antiquity of Man," Horne's "Introduction to Christianity," on one side, and Tom Paine's "Age of Reason," the works of Hume, Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," Voltaire's works and other atheistic writings, on the other side. These years of careful study brought the conviction that this life is but a preliminary, probationary time allotted to each to determine his fitness or acceptance for a higher continuous life as shown in the New Testament.

In the subjects collateral to religion and Christianity, sociology, political economy, industrial and economic affairs

as well as a considerable acquaintance with philosophy, natural science and tariff protection of industries have all been subjects of continuous study, observation and discussion.

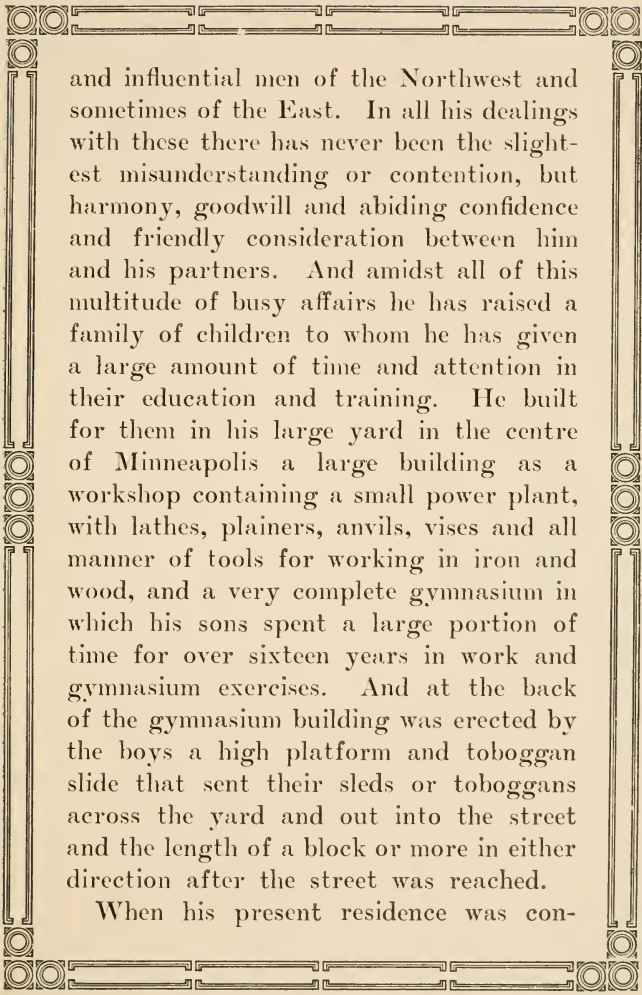
His library shows hundreds of volumes of books read, leaves turned down and marginal notes calling attention to pointed items. From these he has compiled a book called "The Testimony of the Ages," generally regarded as the most satisfactory compilation of evidences of the truths of Christianity and after-life that has ever been compiled, ranging over the ages from Plato and Aristotle to the present time among the leading minds of the world.

As president of the Minnesota Academy of Science which he has been interested in upbuilding for many years, and as north-western member of the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A. and of the City, State and University Y. M. C. A. local associations and a member of almost all the prominent political and social organizations of the country, whose meetings and discussions he has often taken part in—



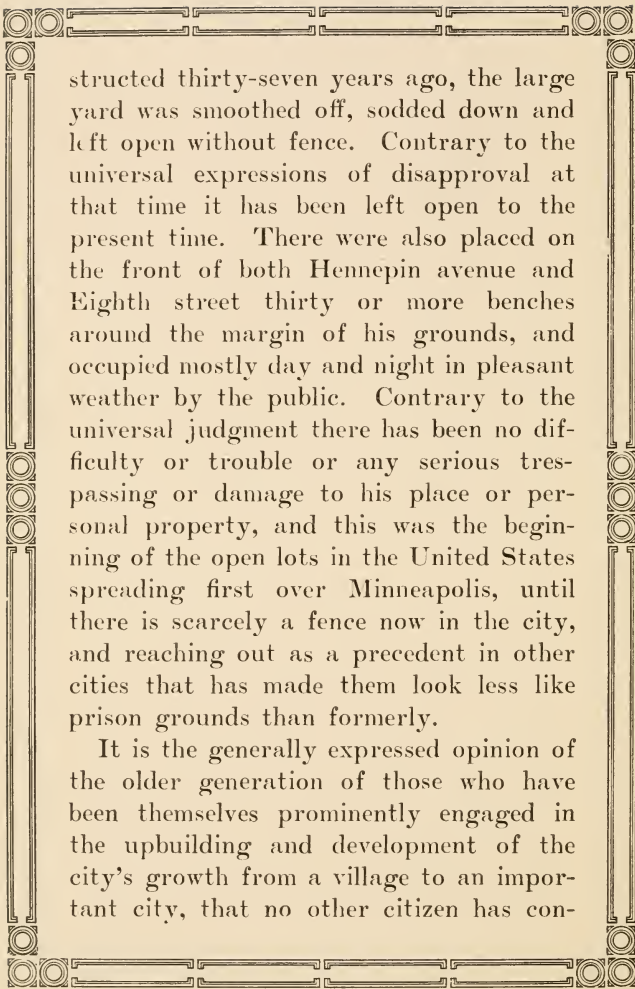
the American Economic Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Civic Association, American Forestry Association and Geographical Association, Historical Society, Commonwealth Club of California, Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association, Minneapolis Commercial Club, Federation of Labor, and many other national, state and city associations; as president of the library board for all the years since it was organized through his agency, the Church organizations and the two Social Unions and Church Extension Societies of the Methodist Church and very many years an active member of the Reform School Board of Minnesota and for many years president of the Business Men's Union of Minneapolis, and an active part taken in the discussion of the important political and industrial problems of the present time, he has perhaps shown as busy and active, as well as useful a life, as could well be found amongst the American people.

In his business life he has been associated with some of the most prominent

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and influential men of the Northwest and sometimes of the East. In all his dealings with these there has never been the slightest misunderstanding or contention, but harmony, goodwill and abiding confidence and friendly consideration between him and his partners. And amidst all of this multitude of busy affairs he has raised a family of children to whom he has given a large amount of time and attention in their education and training. He built for them in his large yard in the centre of Minneapolis a large building as a workshop containing a small power plant, with lathes, planers, anvils, vises and all manner of tools for working in iron and wood, and a very complete gymnasium in which his sons spent a large portion of time for over sixteen years in work and gymnasium exercises. And at the back of the gymnasium building was erected by the boys a high platform and toboggan slide that sent their sleds or toboggans across the yard and out into the street and the length of a block or more in either direction after the street was reached.

When his present residence was con-

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structed thirty-seven years ago, the large yard was smoothed off, sodded down and left open without fence. Contrary to the universal expressions of disapproval at that time it has been left open to the present time. There were also placed on the front of both Hennepin avenue and Eighth street thirty or more benches around the margin of his grounds, and occupied mostly day and night in pleasant weather by the public. Contrary to the universal judgment there has been no difficulty or trouble or any serious trespassing or damage to his place or personal property, and this was the beginning of the open lots in the United States spreading first over Minneapolis, until there is scarcely a fence now in the city, and reaching out as a precedent in other cities that has made them look less like prison grounds than formerly.

It is the generally expressed opinion of the older generation of those who have been themselves prominently engaged in the upbuilding and development of the city's growth from a village to an important city, that no other citizen has con-

tributed more than a moderate fractional part that Mr. Walker has in advancing the growth and prosperity of Minneapolis and incidentally of the Northwest than he has contributed. This relates to the educational, social, religious, industrial and political development.

And in all this he has had the goodwill and favor of all classes and particularly the working men.

In 1898, The Minneapolis Times instituted a voting contest for determining who were the most popular citizens, with the result that Mr. Walker received more votes than any other.

And in the elections for library director at the several elections during the past twenty-eight years, there is almost an entirely unanimous vote from all parties for him, including the Democrats, Temperance party and Socialists, as well as the Republicans, of which he is a prominent member.

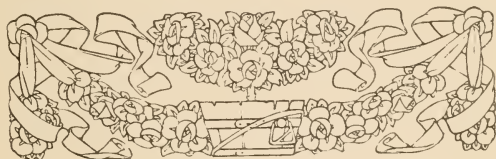
Although in the measurement and estimate of character, general proficiency or aptness for all things usually signifies limited abilities and proficiency in none,

yet this does not to any extent apply to the subject of this sketch, for while he has a quite wide range of characteristic abilities, they are only those that are founded upon good judgment, thorough study, wide experience and earnest devotion and occupation of time that makes for a most useful, helpful and successful life in those various lines that make for the upbuilding, welfare and prosperity, not only of his adopted city, but extending over the Northwest and to some extent over the nation. As a successful and useful life, Mr. Walker's will compare most favorably with any of the citizens of the Northwest.

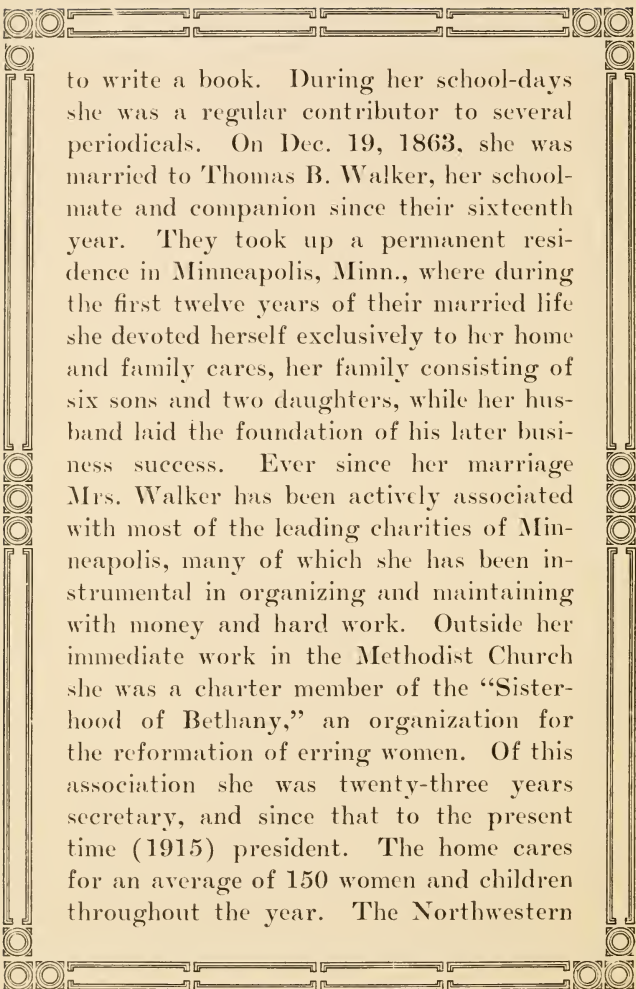
He was married Dec. 19, 1863, to Harriet G., daughter of Fletcher Hulet, and has five sons living: Gilbert M., Fletcher L., Willis J., Clinton L. and Archie D. Walker, all associated with him in his lumber interests; one son, Leon B. Walker, who died in 1867; one daughter, Julia wife of Ernest F. Smith, and a daughter Harriet, who died in 1904, who was married to Rev. Frederick C. Holman, pastor of Hennepin Avenue M. E. Church.



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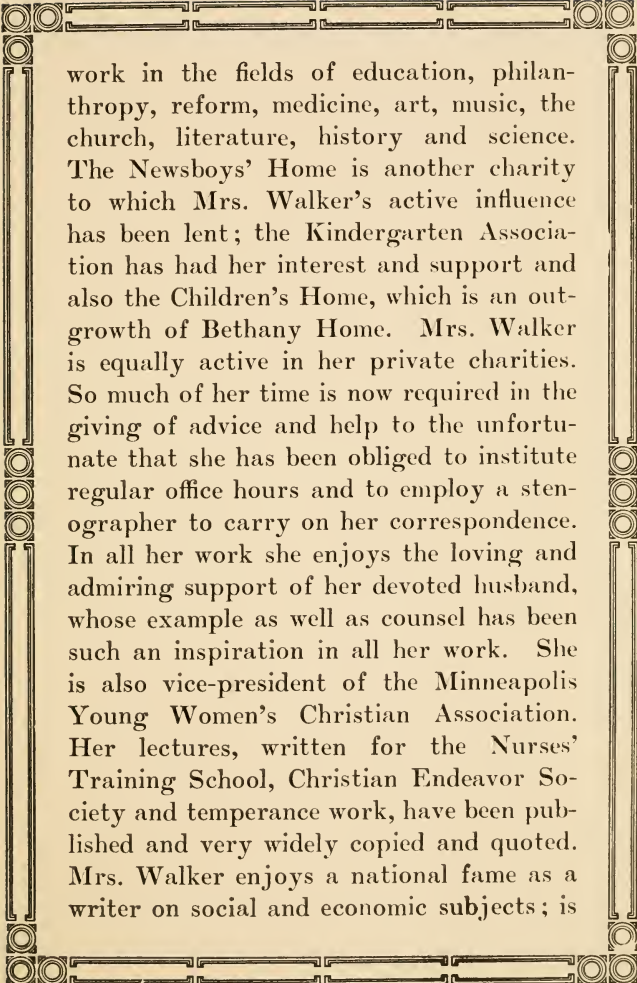
HARRIET GRANGER WALKER, philanthropist and reformer, was born at Brunswick, O., Sept. 10, 1841, youngest daughter of Fletcher and Fanny (Granger) Hulet, natives of Berkshire county, Mass. Her grandfather, John Hulet, of Lee, Mass., played a distinguished part in the battle of Bunker Hill, and her great-grandfather (also John Hulet) built the first Methodist church in Berkshire county, if not in the state of Massachusetts. When Mrs. Walker was six years of age her parents removed to Berea, O., where she attended the Baldwin University. At an early age she united with the Methodist Church, to which her family belonged, and with which she has been prominently identified ever since. She early showed marked literary ability, and it was her girlhood ambition

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to write a book. During her school-days she was a regular contributor to several periodicals. On Dec. 19, 1863, she was married to Thomas B. Walker, her school-mate and companion since their sixteenth year. They took up a permanent residence in Minneapolis, Minn., where during the first twelve years of their married life she devoted herself exclusively to her home and family cares, her family consisting of six sons and two daughters, while her husband laid the foundation of his later business success. Ever since her marriage Mrs. Walker has been actively associated with most of the leading charities of Minneapolis, many of which she has been instrumental in organizing and maintaining with money and hard work. Outside her immediate work in the Methodist Church she was a charter member of the "Sisterhood of Bethany," an organization for the reformation of erring women. Of this association she was twenty-three years secretary, and since that to the present time (1915) president. The home cares for an average of 150 women and children throughout the year. The Northwestern

Hospital for Women and Children was organized by her in 1882, and she has been its president continuously to the present time. It is under the sole management of women directors and has a training school for nurses with women physicians. It owns two of the finest hospital buildings in the Northwest, with accommodations for one hundred patients and a nurses' home in which are housed the forty nurses now in the school and capacity for twenty more. Mrs. Walker brought together from the four leading Christian organizations of the city, the Woman's Christian Association, the Sisterhood of Bethany and the two branches of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, a joint committee who induced the police commissioners of Minneapolis to create the position of police matron and to allow this committee the nomination of the incumbent by the payment of half her salary. She had visited and investigated the workings of matrons, or the want of matrons, in Boston, New York, Washington, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago and Milwaukee, writing extensively upon the

subject. She was one of the first to take up the work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. When that organization took up the political issue, however, she was for many years shut out from the work. Upon the division of the union she joined the Non-partisan Woman's Christian Temperance Union and resumed her active part in temperance work, becoming vice-president and state president of the non-partisan organization, in each of which capacities her genius finds full play. She personally compiled valuable statistics on the subject, and at the world's temperance conference in Chicago, in 1893, she delivered a lecture on the Keeley cure for inebriates. For seven years (1892-99) she was president of the Woman's Council, a delegate representative association of all branches of woman's work in Minneapolis. To her capable leadership was unquestionably due the astonishing growth and prosperity of this body, which finally became merged in the Federation of Clubs. Seventy associations were represented in this council, covering all departments of thought, study and

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work in the fields of education, philanthropy, reform, medicine, art, music, the church, literature, history and science. The Newsboys' Home is another charity to which Mrs. Walker's active influence has been lent; the Kindergarten Association has had her interest and support and also the Children's Home, which is an outgrowth of Bethany Home. Mrs. Walker is equally active in her private charities. So much of her time is now required in the giving of advice and help to the unfortunate that she has been obliged to institute regular office hours and to employ a stenographer to carry on her correspondence. In all her work she enjoys the loving and admiring support of her devoted husband, whose example as well as counsel has been such an inspiration in all her work. She is also vice-president of the Minneapolis Young Women's Christian Association. Her lectures, written for the Nurses' Training School, Christian Endeavor Society and temperance work, have been published and very widely copied and quoted. Mrs. Walker enjoys a national fame as a writer on social and economic subjects; is

a regular contributor to the "Trained Nurses' Magazine" of New York and to the "Temperance Tribune," of which she is chairman of the publication committee. Through all her active life, however, Mrs. Walker's home duties were always foremost. She has refused to give her time to society; her evenings are devoted to her family, yet among the women of the city of Minneapolis there is probably no other one so widely beloved and respected. Warm-hearted, sympathetic, earnest and untiring in her consideration of others, she has contributed more to the welfare, comfort and support of the people of Minneapolis than any other woman, and in all her good works she has the full support and co-operation of her husband.



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